

Annual report of the English Institute at Neuchâtel University – 2017/2018

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Institute director



This document chronicles the academic year of 2017/2018 at the English Institute, highlighting aspects of our teaching, research, and social life. As usual, our year has been very eventful. The book covers at the top of this page give a first impression of the projects that have been keeping us busy. A special moment has been Margaret Tudeau-Clayton's farewell conference, which was entitled "Shakespeare for Life", and which brought together the entire institute, as well as many of Margaret's colleagues, friends, and family members.

The fall semester 2017 started with the enrolment of 50 new students, bringing our total number of students to 218 (173 BA; 39 MA; 6 PhD). During the two semesters, we offered the following courses:

- Introduction to English Literature (+ workshop)
- Introduction to English Linguistics (+ workshop)
- Practical Language
- Phonetics and Phonology
- Talking point
- Early Modern English Literature (16th-18th century)
- Modern and Contemporary Literature (19th - 21st century)
- Modern and Contemporary Literature (20th century fiction)
- King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table
- American Short Story
- American Utopias
- The "American Renaissance" in Context
- Early Modern English comedy
- Medieval English
- Marking the Medieval Body
- Indian literature
- Literature and the environment
- Creative writing
- Pragmatics
- English for teachers

Morphology
Controversies in linguistics
Contrastive linguistics
First language acquisition
Introduction to bilingualism
Introduction to conversation analysis
Research methods in psycholinguistics

The sections below highlight individual activities of the members of our institute.

Prof. Margaret Tudeau-Clayton

The first year of Margaret's 'retirement' has been something of an Indian summer — not too much heat, just enough not to feel out in the cold. In the autumn and winter months she enjoyed working with the contributors and her co-editor Martin Hilpert on SPELL 36, the volume of essays based on the SAUTE conference 'The Challenge of Change' hosted by the English Institute in April 2017. At the same time, she worked on a paper for the SAA seminar 'The Languages of Tudor Englishness': 'Englishes' against 'Englishness': Shakespeare's practice of *synonymia*'. Unfortunately, she was prevented by a knee injury from attending the conference (in Los Angeles), but she was invited to participate in the seminar from a distance, which she did with much interest and enjoyment. She likewise participated from a distance in a seminar on 'Prayer and Poetry' held in Cambridge to which she had been invited. She recovered from her injury in time for what was the climax of her year, a mini-conference on 'Shakespeare for Life' organised on May 4 by the English Institute to celebrate her life's work. Attended by members of her family as well as friends and colleagues from English Departments across Switzerland, this was a very special day, which she will not forget. It ended with a surprise presentation of a pre-publication copy of a volume of essays, dedicated to her, which is co-edited by Matthias Heim and Rahel Orgis, her first graduate assistants, and which will be published by Palgrave/Macmillan later in 2018. *Fashioning England and The English* carries essays on some of Margaret's favorite authors (from Shakespeare to Virginia Woolf via Jane Austen and William Wordsworth) written by friends and colleagues from near and far (from Neuchâtel to Australia). It was a pleasure for her to read and she is very grateful to the contributors as well as to Rahel and Matthias for this precious gift. She is hoping it will be followed by the publication of her own monograph, *Shakespeare's Englishes: against Englishness*, currently under review with CUP. In the meantime, she has launched into two new research projects on Virginia Woolf, which will keep her busy at least till the end of the summer.

Prof. Patrick Vincent

Patrick Vincent's grant proposal on Swiss guestbooks was accepted by the SNFS in September, and he launched the project in February, hiring Neuchâtel alumnus Jérémie Magnin to research and write a doctoral thesis on nineteenth-century guestbooks. His book proposal on the history of European Romantic Literature was also accepted by Cambridge University Press. It is now under contract and twenty-one international

scholars have accepted to contribute articles to the collection, which should appear in print in early 2022.

In October, Patrick organized the annual SANAS mini-conference, this year entitled "Twenty-First Century Thoreau." The guest speakers were Laura Dassow Walls of the University of Notre Dame, and François Specq of the ENS-Lyon. Twenty-five students and faculty participated in the event. He also gave three invited talks: "Romanticism, Restoration, Reaction?" as part of the CUSO workshop on Restoration and the Long Eighteenth Century: Concept and Metaphor, University of Geneva, 4 November 2017; "Le Cercle des Whigs et la Suisse autour de 1792: Georgiana, duchesse de Devonshire," at the Colloque de la Société suisse pour l'étude du 18ème siècle, Neuchâtel, 23 November 2017; and, with Jérémie Magnin, "The High Alps without Guides': Guidebooks, Guestbooks, and the Origins of Guideless Travel," at the 'Brits at Home, Brits Abroad' symposium, Institute of English Studies, University of London, 9 May 2018.

Articles published during the year include "British Travellers in Geneva in 1816: A Demographic Reassessment," *Notes and Queries*, Volume 64, issue 4, December 2017: 566-569; "Common Sense and Ale: Cobbett, Clare, and the 1830 Beer Act," *John Clare Society Journal*, 37 (2018): 5-21; "Sons of Nature: The Search for Bourgeois Happiness in the Swiss Alps and Wordsworth's Lake District," *Fashioning England and the English - Literature, Nation, Gender*, eds. Rahel Orgis and Matthias Heim. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018, 147-170; and "British Romantics Abroad," *The Oxford Handbook of British Romanticism*, ed. David Duff, Oxford: Oxford UP, August 2018, 707-722.

Among his teaching activities, he organized and led a four-day student trip in May to Manchester, Haworth, and York with Anne-Claire Michoux as part of his seminar on Victorian fiction. He also gave two courses at the University of Lausanne, an MA seminar on Thoreau, and a BA seminar on utopia in American fiction. Finally, he continued to serve as vice-president of the University Assembly, and as the faculty advisor to the Français Pour Tous program for refugees, which was awarded one of this year's Salut l'Étranger prizes by the canton of Neuchâtel.

Prof. Martin Hilpert

Martin Hilpert continued his work on the SNF-funded Lead Agency Project "Re-thinking English Modal Constructions". Together with Susanne Flach, he wrote an article that is currently under review. MH and SF co-presented results of their work at the BICLCE conference in Vigo. They also hosted a meeting with the project collaborators from Lille University.

A paper that MH wrote with David Correia Saavedra was accepted for publication in the journal "Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory". Together with Samuel Bourgeois, MH wrote an article that is currently under review. Margaret Tudeau-Clayton and MH edited a volume with papers from the 2017 SAUTE conference.

MH gave the presidential keynote address at the 50th meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea in Zurich. He also gave invited keynote lectures at the BICLCE conference in Vigo, Spain, the Annual meeting of the Polish Association for Cognitive Linguistics in

Rzeszow, the Colloque de la Société Internationale de Diachronie du Français, which was held in Neuchâtel, and the 39th ICAME conference in Tampere, Finland. He also gave invited talks in Edinburgh, Copenhagen, and Leiden. He further taught at a summer school in Birmingham.

MH acted as external examiner in dissertation defenses at the universities of Leuven, Santiago de Compostela, and the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. He evaluated research proposals for the Finnish Academy, and he presided over an evaluation committee for the Hcéres.

MH's administrative duties at the University of Neuchâtel included his work as chair of the English Institute, president of the library commission, and chair of the hiring commission for Margaret Tudeau-Clayton's succession.

Dr. Katrin Rupp

In the autumn semester 2017 Katrin Rupp taught a BA lecture on medieval English language and literature and a BA seminar entitled "King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table". In the spring semester 2018 KR taught an MA seminar on the medieval body.

KR is the co-editor (with Nicole Nyffenegger) of a collection of articles entitled *Writing on Skin in the Age of Chaucer*, for which she co-wrote the introduction and which is to appear with De Gruyter in August/September 2018. KR's article "'If wommen hadde written stories:' Gender and Social Change in Geoffrey Chaucer's 'Wife of Bath's Tale' and Jane Austen's *Persuasion*" (co-written with Anne-Claire Michoux) is to appear in *SPELL* this year. Her article "Engendering a Sense of Englishness: The Use of the Mother Tongue in Osborn Bokenham's 'Vita Sanctae Margaretae'" is scheduled to appear in summer/autumn 2018 in *Fashioning England and the English* (edited by Rahel Orgis and Matthias Heim), with Palgrave Macmillan.

Dr. Rahel Orgis

Rahel Orgis was hired as chargée d'enseignement for the academic year 2017/2018 to replace Prof. Margaret Tudeau-Clayton after her retirement. She was responsible for the first-year introductory courses to literature and writing (introductory lecture and workshop in the fall semester, workshop in the spring semester), the BA lecture on early modern literature 1500-1800 (SS 2018), and she taught an MA seminar on Elizabethan prose fiction (AS 17) and a BA seminar on popular seventeenth- and eighteenth-century fiction by women authors (SS 18). In the context of the first-year introduction to literature RO organized an optional trip to Köniz Lerbermatt for students to see a production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing* staged by the Cambridge European Theatre Group.

Fall 2017 saw the publication of RO's article "An Author Re-reading: Lady Mary Wroth's Corrections to the Printed *Urania* and the Manuscript Continuation" (*ELR* 47.3, <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/694733>). Together with her co-

editor, Matthias Heim, RO saw through press a volume of essays entitled *Fashioning England and the English: Literature, Nation, Gender*, to which she contributed a chapter and co-wrote the introduction. The volume is forthcoming with Palgrave Macmillan (<https://www.palgrave.com/de/book/9783319921259>). RO further submitted an article entitled "Autor und Erzähler: Frühe Neuzeit" to the *Handbuch Historische Narratologie*, edited by Eva von Contzen and Stefan Tilg (forthcoming 2018 with Metzler).

During the academic year 17/18 RO presented two papers at international conferences on narrative: a paper related to her research project on early modern narration, entitled "The Orator, the Poet and Narratorial Play in Early Modern Narrative Theory and Practice" (5th European Narrative Network conference, Prague, 13-15 September 2017), and a paper on "The Narratological Stakes of Representing Cross-dressed Characters on the Page" (2018 International Conference on Narrative, Montréal, April 19-22 2018). RO also co-organized the farewell conference of Prof. Margaret Tudeau-Clayton on May 4 2018, with presentations by Prof. Margaret Tudeau-Clayton (Unine), Prof. Dympna Callaghan (Syracuse University) and Prof. Elisabeth Bronfen (Unizh).

Parallel to her research and teaching, RO continued to coordinate the CUSO doctoral programme in English Language and Literature until December 2017 when she handed over the post to Audrey Loetscher (Unil).

Dr. Susanne Flach

Over the past year, SF continued her work with MH on the SNF project on modal auxiliaries, which both presented at a workshop in Vigo/Spain. SF's book proposal of her PhD thesis has been accepted for publication with De Gruyter and is currently under revision. She published one article in the 2017 edition of the Yearbook of the German Cognitive Linguistics Association (DGKL yearbook). She has two single-authored papers under review at two prestigious journals, one on modality and one on usage effects on acceptability judgements. MH and SF contributed a joint article on constructional contamination to an edited volume. Together with Beate Hampe (Erfurt), SF is a co-editor of the 2018 edition of the DGKL yearbook.

SF has been invited for talks in Kiel, Basel and Mannheim and has given papers at conferences in Estonia, Spain, Finland, Israel, and France. Together with MH, she organised a two-day CUSO workshop on data analysis in R in June 2018. She continues to head the R user group for linguists at Neuchâtel and served as an expert on MA defense committees in Neuchâtel and Paris.

Dr. Dorota Smyk-Bhattacharjee

Dorota Smyk-Bhattacharjee contributed to our linguistic course offerings with seminars on pragmatics and morphology, as well as a class with the title 'English for Teachers.'

Dr. Suzana Zink

Suzana's monograph *Virginia Woolf's Rooms and the Spaces of Modernity* was published by Palgrave USA in February 2018. This year she also contributed to the volume *Fashioning England and the English* in honour of Margaret Tudeau-Clayton with an article entitled "Renegotiating Home and Away in Virginia Woolf's *The Voyage Out*". In June, she took part in the 28th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf, *Virginia Woolf, Europe and Peace*, at the University of Kent, Canterbury (21-24 June), with a talk entitled "'Thinking Peace into Existence': War and Remembering in Woolf's *A Sketch of the Past*".

Anindita Basu Sempere

Anindita Basu Sempere continued her doctoral research and writing. This spring she co-created and launched the public beta of "Mapping Bishop", a digital/geo-humanities software tool that supports her research on Elizabeth Bishop. The software and map are both still in progress.

In the fall, ABS gave a talk through the Swiss chapter of the Society of Children's Writers and Illustrators on "Place in Fiction," which focused on the idea of "place" from a craft perspective and combined elements of her scholarship and creative writing. ABS taught Introduction to Creative Writing in the fall, which ended with a public student reading, and she taught both Talking Point and a section of the Literature and Writing Workshop in the spring. She created guidelines and a timeline for three new departmental writing awards (critical essay, short fiction, and poetry) for students and solicited submissions. The inaugural winners will be announced in the fall. In addition to research and teaching, she completed a rewrite of a YA novel, which is currently on submission, and wrote two picture book manuscripts, which are nearly ready for submission.

Samuel Bourgeois

Samuel Bourgeois taught the first-year linguistics workshop. Since the winter semester, he has attended conferences both in Switzerland and abroad. In May, for example, SB presented at the ICAME 39 conference in Tampere Finland. The presentation was on a joint project conducted with Prof. Hilpert entitled "Multitasking Much? A corpus-based analysis of change in the 'Sarcastic much?' construction" The results of this study have been adapted to a journal article and it has been submitted for publication. In July, at the biannual isLE 5 Conference in London England, SB presented a paper related to his thesis topic on discourse marker use in written texts (title: "Colloquialization, subjectification and intersubjectification: On the development of discourse markers in written English"). SB is also currently in the process of preparing a journal article for another side project on bilingual discourse marker use in Louisiana.

SB has co-organized one workshop with Udo Rohe in Freiburg Germany which will take place within the larger GRK workshop in October where he will also give a poster presentation on colloquial use of discourse marker *oh yeah* in written texts.

David Correia Saavedra

David Correia Saavedra concluded his one year FNS Doc.Mobility grant (P1NEP1_171937) in Antwerp on 31.12.2017. He has fully completed data collection and analysis for his dissertation on the quantification of grammaticalization during his stay in Antwerp and presented his results at “SLE 2017” in Zürich (10.09.2017-13.09.2017), at a “Grammar and Pragmatics” meeting in Antwerp (08.11.2017) and at the international conference “Modelling the linguistic architecture of English: theories and methods” in Vigo (24.05.2018-25.05.2018). He is currently focusing on the writing of his dissertation. In addition, DCS has continued his collaboration on Chinese grammaticalization with a team of researchers from the University of Mainz. The results of this project were presented in Mainz (06.07.2017) and also at “SLE 2017” in Zürich (10.09.2019-13.09.2017). This project has also resulted in the writing of an article that will be submitted to an international journal.

Jérémie Magnin

Jérémie Magnin joined the Institute in February 2018 as a doctoral student under Patrick Vincent’s supervision in the SNF-funded “Swiss Guestbook Project”. His research focuses on hotel guestbooks in Switzerland in the nineteenth-century. Kevin James, professor of history at the University of Guelph, Canada, and guestbook specialist, is JM’s thesis co-supervisor.

Since February, JM has visited four hotels and archives to photograph guestbooks and has established several other hotels and archives with relevant guestbooks. JM has also read and analysed guestbooks from ten other hotels. On May 9th 2018, Patrick Vincent and JM participated in a one-day symposium at the Institute of English Studies of the University of London, entitled “Brits Abroad, Brits at Home”. Hosted by Alan McNee, the symposium brought together researchers interested in British travellers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This was a great opportunity for JM to meet and discuss his research with Kevin James, who gave a talk on the origin of guestbook culture entitled “‘Heterogeneous Hotch-Potches of Maudlin Sentiment and Racked Rhyme’: The Hotel Visitors’ Book and Victorian Travel Writing”.

PV and JM presented a paper based on recent guestbook findings entitled “‘The High Alps without Guides’: Guidebooks, Guestbooks, and the Origins of Guideless Travel”. Reading the popular Baedeker and Ball guides alongside six manuscript guestbooks from the central Valais region, they examined how commercial guidebooks and hotel guestbooks operated dialogically to facilitate guideless travel and to enable less well-off tourists, including students, to explore the High Alps on the cheap. In particular, Arthur Girdlestone, a mountaineer whose book *The High Alps Without Guides* (1870) promoted guideless mountaineering, helped better understand the protocols binding tourist, hotel

owner, and guide, the motives justifying ascents without guides, and some of the problems generated by this more democratic form of travel.

Anne-Claire Michoux

Anne-Claire attended and presented at two international conferences. The first one was at the annual Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society conference, in Waterford, in June 2018. Her paper, entitled, “‘An Irish Tom Jones’: Identifying the Irish Gentleman in Maria Edgeworth’s *Ormond* (1817)”, focused on Maria Edgeworth’s ‘last’ Irish novel. ACM received a postgraduate bursary from the ECIS. In Glasgow in July, ACM presented at the annual Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society another paper focusing on Edgeworth’s fiction and the implications of the concept of the savage for her understanding of British national identity (“‘Mon Dieu, what savages!’ (*Leonora*): Maria Edgeworth and the Figure of the Savage”).

ACM received two other bursaries from the University of Neuchâtel, one from the Subvention Égalité and the other from the Fonds de Donation for two archival research trips at the National Library in Dublin and the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

ACM has also co-written an article with Dr Katrin Rupp, “‘If women hadde writen stories:’ Social Change in Geoffrey Chaucer’s “Wife of Bath’s Tale” and Jane Austen’s *Persuasion*”, published in *SPELL* 2018, and contributed a chapter to the collected edition *Fashioning England and the English: Literature, Nation, and Gender*, ed. Rahel Orgis and Matthias Heim, entitled “‘To Be a True Citizen of Highbury’: Language and National Identity in Jane Austen’s *Emma* (1816)”, released with Palgrave Macmillan this year.

François Spangenberg

If the institute as a whole has been doing well, this is to a large measure due to the excellent administrative support from François Spangenberg, our institute coordinator. As always, François has been making sure that everything works smoothly. We are very thankful, and we hope we haven't stretched his patience too much!

I would like to end this report by thanking everybody for their input and congratulating each and every one of you on your achievements and successes. We are looking forward to an exciting new year.

Neuchâtel, September 2018